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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1 9 5 5.

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector -

C. E. BEAN, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1956.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Bean, your Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant

H. Brown

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 5.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.

Rateable value - 1st April 1955 - £59,648; 1st April 1956-£92,302

Production of a penny rate - 1955/56 - £226; 1956/57 - £364

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,390.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		Comparative figures	
				(a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	32	33	} Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 8.8		
Legitimate	32	33			
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil		11.2	15.0

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	1	1	} Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 29.8		
				29.8	23.1

DEATHS.

Total	41	46	} Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.7		
				10.7	11.7

Deaths in infants under one year	Nil	Nil	} Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil		
				Nil	24.5

			<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	-		Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	-		2	1	Nil
" " Cancer of the lungs	-		5	1	2
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	-		5	9	8
" " Influenza	-		1	Nil	4
" " Pneumonia	-		7	3	4
" " Motor vehicle accidents	-		Nil	Nil	1
" " All other accidents	-		4	2	Nil
" " Suicide	-		Nil	Nil	1

B. Nature of the District.

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, glove making and the silk mills.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not yet been possible to develop fully the County Council's Domestic Home Help Service in the District. Otherwise, the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

D. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

C.E.Bean, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.	Chief Sanitary Inspector. Part time.
P.A.Williams, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Ceased duties 25.7.55.
F.E.Raeburn, M.S.I.A.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector from 7.11.55. Full time.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also carries out the duties of Surveyor and Water Engineer.

The Assistant Sanitary Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector.

Clerical Staff - Three clerks (part time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

Rainfall	-	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
		26.50 ins.	34.80 ins.	28.67 ins.

The supply has remained adequate in quantity and the Council has been able to supplement the supplies in the area of the Sherborne Rural District to the extent of seven and three quarter million gallons until September when no further supplies were required.

The bacteriological quality from each source has remained satisfactory.

To counteract the rapid deposits of calcium carbonate in the services in the higher part of the town the Council decided, during the year, to pre-treat the water with "calgon".

Regular monthly samples from each of the Council's supplies totalling 122, were submitted for bacteriological examination and a sample from each source was submitted for chemical examination. Daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was carried out. The fluorine content of the supplies was shown to be between 0.2 and 0.3.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies 27 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

1,999 houses in the Urban District are provided with a water supply piped into the house. 78 houses obtain their water by means of standpipes.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Routine repairs to sewers were carried out during the year and further consideration was given to improvement of the existing Sewage Works.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. The Local Authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

(b) Salvage. The following amounts of salvage have been collected during the year in conjunction with regular refuse collection:-

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>
Paper	114.	0.	0.
Metal	11.	12.	3.
Rags	1.	15.	0.

Total - 127. 7. 3.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

The Somerset Rivers Board, in the course of their duties under the Rivers Board Act 1948, have continued to exercise close observation on the purity of the River Yeo.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Act 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3)(4) and (5).

The following inspections were carried out.

No. of inspections carried out	71
No. of defects found	2
No. of notices served	2
No. of notices complied with	2

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	9	8	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	41	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	-	-
Total	64	49	-

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were - Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable or defective	10	2	-
Not separate for sexes	1	1	1
Total	11	3	1

No. of outworkers - 43.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Nuisance was observed from three sources during the year. Fifteen observations and visits were made. Informal action obtained abatement of the nuisance in two cases, but in the remaining case all apparent methods to abate the nuisance failed, but it is intended that new methods are to be tried in an effort to remedy the nuisance.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the Local Authority and the water is chlorinated.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination and residual chlorine estimation all proved satisfactory.

The use of this privately owned swimming bath by the general public is considered to be a valuable health asset. Unfortunately, considerable difficulty was experienced during the year to obtain the services of suitably qualified persons to supervise the use of the bath when open to the public. Sincere thanks are due to those public spirited persons who voluntarily undertook those duties to enable use to be made of the bath during the excellent summer weather enjoyed in 1955.

It is regretted that some persons using the bath do not pay adequate respect to property of the owners and, in the interests of the majority who do, it is hoped that the action of the few will not cause the enjoyment of the many having to be curtailed.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of moveable dwellings licensed during the year 4
No. of camping sites licensed in the district 2

Although one of the licensed camping sites is reasonably suitable for the use to which it is put, the other one is not satisfactory. Whilst the housing situation has been acute, use of this site has been permitted for a number of caravans, normally residential accommodation for prolonged periods. Now that the demand for the use of such accommodation is materially reduced, this site can no longer be considered suitable for the purpose.

Consideration was again given to the establishment of a permanent caravan site adjoining Culverhayes Car Park, provided with the necessary sanitary facilities, for the temporary use of tourists passing through the district. Unfortunately, on economic grounds, it would appear that this very highly desirable development will have to be postponed to a more appropriate time.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for during the year.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered 448.

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No. of licensed premises 1
No. of inspections made 2

15. SCHOOL (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

All the County Council schools were inspected and particular attention was paid to the canteens.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for under these Acts during the year.

17. HOUSING.

Total No. of houses in the district 2,087

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 67

No. of inspections made 123

No. of informal notices served Nil

No. of informal notices complied with Nil

No. of statutory notices served Nil

No. of statutory notices complied with Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 11
of the Housing Act 1936 Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in
respect of such houses -

(a) Demolition Orders made Nil

(b) Undertakings accepted for -

(i) Closure Nil

(ii) Reconditioning Nil

(iii) Other action Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year 54

Slum Clearance.

The return required under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 was made to the Ministry during the year. This showed that you estimated that there are 150 houses in the district which are 'unfit' and which you propose to deal with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 or Clearance during the next five years.

Action was taken during the year in respect of fifty-four houses included in Clearance Areas declared during the year.

The standard of 'unfitness' to be applied in taking action in connection with slum clearance is by no means yet clear. Some County Court decisions have made the indeterminate standards laid down by the Act even more difficult to apply and some difference in standard from officer to officer and Council to Council can be expected until more definite standards are laid down by statute.

Overcrowding.

Three cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year and two cases abated.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

No applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the above-mentioned Act.

It is clearly apparent that little, if any, advantage is being sought by property owners to increase rents under the provision of the above-mentioned Act and there is little evidence that the Act is assisting in obtaining necessary repairs being carried out.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954).

Eight applications were received during the year for grants under the above-mentioned Act and six grants were made.

The applications so far received by the Council have been in respect of owner-occupiers' property and the provisions of this Act as far as your District is concerned have done little to reduce the demand for council house accommodation.

Although the Council set a very good example by using the Act to improve a row of sub-standard cottages owned by them, it is a pity that the other large property owners in the district have not considered it advantageous to take similar action in respect of substandard property under their control.

New Houses.

Four new houses were provided by private enterprise during the year and thirty-four by the Council. There are now 609 Council houses in the District.

Forty-three families were rehoused by the Council during the year. At the end of the year the names of 249 applicants were on the waiting list of whom 67 were living outside the district.

It would be a mistake to consider that the only need for further council houses now comes from those due to be rehoused from 'slum property'. There is still an equally urgent demand in respect of persons living under equally unsatisfactory conditions in shared accommodation or furnished rooms.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949	4
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No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations 1949	2
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No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	4
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No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	4
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Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	28
Pasteurised	189
Undesignated	27

No. of samples of milk subjected to a guinea pig inoculation test for Tuberculosis	4
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Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	54
No. being - restaurant kitchens	7
hotel kitchens	15
food factories	5
No. of such premises inspected	54
No. inspected being - restaurant kitchens	7
hotel kitchens	15
food factories	5
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	32
No. of such premises registered in respect of -	
(a) Ice-cream	29
(b) Sausages and prepared meats	3
No. of premises inspected during the year	32
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test	120

Results:-	Grade 1	-	86
	" 2	-	26
	" 3	-	3
	" 4	-	5

No. of inspections of food stalls 14

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>
Number killed	2614	1136	1108	3149
Number inspected	2614	1136	1108	3149
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	11	4	3	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	277	172	11	373
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	11.0	15.5	0.66	11.2
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	2	10	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	89	95	-	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	3.5	9.3	-	-

Butchers and other shops.

No. of inspections during the year _____ 27

Quantities condemned	-	Meat	74 lbs.
		Fish	Nil.
Other foods condemned	-	Meat	428 lbs.
		Assorted foods	270 lbs.

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	410
Total No. of informal notices served	7
Total No. of informal notices complied with	4
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	34
Scarlet Fever	9
Pneumonia	8
Poliomyelitis (P)	1
Whooping Cough	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	5

It will be noticed that there was an increased incidence of Measles during the year.

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non.Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non.Respiratory.</u>
2	2	1	1

Food Poisoning -

Twelve cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year. This outbreak occurred in a school where the mid-day meal was considered to be the source of the trouble.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

The following information was obtained from the records of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, for the year ending December 31, 1964.

1. The total number of acres of land owned by the United States is 1,000,000,000.

2. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of California is 100,000,000.

3. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Texas is 100,000,000.

4. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of New York is 100,000,000.

5. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Illinois is 100,000,000.

State	Acres
United States	1,000,000,000
California	100,000,000
Texas	100,000,000
New York	100,000,000
Illinois	100,000,000

6. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Florida is 100,000,000.

7. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Georgia is 100,000,000.

8. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Alabama is 100,000,000.

9. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Louisiana is 100,000,000.

10. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Mississippi is 100,000,000.

State	Acres
Florida	100,000,000
Georgia	100,000,000
Alabama	100,000,000
Louisiana	100,000,000
Mississippi	100,000,000

11. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Arkansas is 100,000,000.

12. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Missouri is 100,000,000.

13. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Iowa is 100,000,000.

14. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Kansas is 100,000,000.

15. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Nebraska is 100,000,000.

State	Acres
Arkansas	100,000,000
Missouri	100,000,000
Iowa	100,000,000
Kansas	100,000,000
Nebraska	100,000,000

16. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Oklahoma is 100,000,000.

17. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Colorado is 100,000,000.

18. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Utah is 100,000,000.

19. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Arizona is 100,000,000.

20. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of New Mexico is 100,000,000.

State	Acres
Oklahoma	100,000,000
Colorado	100,000,000
Utah	100,000,000
Arizona	100,000,000
New Mexico	100,000,000

21. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Nevada is 100,000,000.

22. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Idaho is 100,000,000.

23. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Montana is 100,000,000.

24. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of Wyoming is 100,000,000.

25. The total number of acres of land owned by the State of North Dakota is 100,000,000.

State	Acres
Nevada	100,000,000
Idaho	100,000,000
Montana	100,000,000
Wyoming	100,000,000
North Dakota	100,000,000